

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 174782 TOSEC 080009
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA:TRESTON:MAD

APPROVED BY PA:TRESTON

S/S-O - MR. CASTRODALE

-----093256 112159Z /61

P 112107Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 174782 TOSEC 080009

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

1. THE SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING OF TUESDAY, JULY 11 WAS SHORT AND LITTLE NEW INFORMATION WAS ELICITED BY THE PRESS CORPS.
 2. SPOKESMAN BEGAN BY READING A STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONCERN AT THE ARREST OF A PARAGUAYAN OPPOSITION LEADER IN ASUNCION. THIS SPAWNED NO QUESTIONS.
 3. SPOKESMAN THEN REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON PROGRESS BEING MADE DURING NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS IN ANGOLA.
 4. SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED SECRETARY VANCE IS TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETING IN EUROPE WITH MRS. SHCHARANSKIY. ASKED WHY, HE SAID: "I THINK OUR EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN HAVE BEEN KNOWN FROM THIS PODIUM BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE HIMSELF. AND AGAIN IN HIS PRESS CON-
- UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 174782 TOSEC 080009

REFERENCE YESTERDAY, I THINK HE EXPRESSED THE CONCERN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE TRIALS WHICH ARE ONGOING OF MR. SHAHARANSKIY AND OTHERS IN THE SOVIET UNION; AND I THINK THAT THIS MEETING WITH THE DEFENDANT'S WIFE SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A CONCRETE SYMBOL OF OUR CONCERN."

5. SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN VIEW OF SOVIET JOURNALISTS RESIDENT IN THE U.S.

6. SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO CONFIRM, DENY OR SPECULATE ON REPORTS THAT USG HAD ATTEMPTED TO HEAD OFF SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL BY TRYING TO ARRANGE A SWAP.

7. EVEN THOUGH PRESSED, SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO GO BEYOND SECRETARY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF UPCOMING SALT TALKS, STATING THAT HE WAS NOT SAYING ANYTHING QUOTE EVEN ONE DEGREE DIFFERENT UNQUOTE FROM WHAT SECRETARY HAS BEEN SAYING.

8. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN SPOKESMAN AND IDO DISSENTSHIK: "Q: TOM, I WANT TO ASK YOU A RATHER PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION.

WHY IS IT THAT THIS GOVERNMENT TAKES A STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS ALL OVER THE WORLD? WHAT IS IT IN THIS COUNTRY THAT MAKES IT SO PURE TO PASS JUDGMENT ON OTHER COUNTRIES?

A: THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH MAKES IT SO PURE WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO PASS JUDGMENT ON ANY OTHER COUNTRY. WE ARE NOT DOING SO. BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THEIR POLICY ABROAD.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 174782 TOSEC 080009

AND WE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ABOUT PRACTICES WHICH OCCUR ELSEWHERE, AS PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPRESS VIEWS ABOUT PRACTICES WHICH OCCUR HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

NOBODY HAS EVER CLAIMED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SO PURE OR IS PERFECT. WE ACCEPT CRITICISM OF OUR SOCIETY.

Q: AND THAT IS WHY YOU ARE DEFENDING SHCHARANSKIY, BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS SO MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?

A: NO. IT IS --

Q: EXCUSE ME, TOM. JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO, THERE WERE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN WHO COULDN'T RIDE ON A BUS ON THE SAME BENCH AS YOU SAT. AND JUST YESTERDAY, THE MOST HORRENDOUS PHILOSOPHY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAS PERMITTED TO BE PREACHED OPENLY IN CHICAGO. AND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT -- NOT YOU, YOURSELF -- BUT IT IS SAID IN THIS COUNTRY THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN CHICAGO IS OKAY BECAUSE THE COURT APPROVED IT.

NOW, IN MY VIEW, WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SOVIET UNION,

ACCORDING TO THIS PHILOSOPHY, SHOULD BE ALSO OKAY,
BECAUSE IT IS GOING ACCORDING TO THE COURT IN THAT
COUNTRY.

Q: SO WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A --?

A: I JUST THINK THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF THE
WAY THE COURT SYSTEMS WORK."

9. BRIEFING CLOSED WITH SOMEWHAT ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE
BETWEEN SPOKESMAN AND KARL KNUEMANN ON SUBJECT OF NAZI
WAR CRIMINALS.

10. IT WAS A DAY LIKE ANY OTHER DAY. . . RESTON HOPES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 174782 TOSEC 080009

CARTER FEELING IN BETTER HEALTH. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE174782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRESTON:MAD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0370
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780773/aaaacjdk.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04834977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2047148
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04834977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014